Amendments to the Claims

Claim 1.   (CURRENTLY AMENDED)   A <u>non-segmentation, individual pixel-by-</u><u>pixel</u> method of processing source image data for rendering an image having a plurality of pixels, the method comprising:

associating image information with each pixel of the image, the image information for each pixel including two image-information data bits, a first bit of the image-information bits indicating whether color processing or monochrome processing should be performed for rendering the pixel, and a second bit of the image-information data bits indicating a type of halftone processing that should be performed for rendering the pixel; and

rendering each pixel of the image based on the first and second image-information bits that are associated with each pixel.

Claim 2.   (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED)   The method of claim 1, wherein the type of halftone processing includes one of color image halftone processing, text/edge halftone processing, monochrome halftone processing and white.

Claims 3-5   (Canceled)

Claim 6.   (CURRENTLY AMENDED)   A <u>non-segmentation, individual pixel-by-</u><u>pixel</u> method of processing source image data for rendering source image data for an output device, the method comprising:

.

associating image information with each pixel, the image information for each pixel including at least two image-information bits, a first bit of the image-information bits indicating whether color processing or monochrome processing should be performed for rendering the pixel and a second bit of the image-information data bits indicating a type of halftone processing that should be performed for rendering the pixel; and

rendering each pixel of the source image using an image rendering process that is based on the first and second image-information bits associated with each pixel.

Claim 7   (Canceled)

Claim 8.   (CURRENTLY AMENDED)   The method of claim 7 6, wherein the type of halftone process includes one of error diffusion and matrix thresholding.

Claim 9.   (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED)   The method of claim 6, wherein the type of halftone processing includes one of color image halftone processing, text/edge halftone processing, monochrome halftone processing and white.

Claims 10 and 11   (Canceled)

Claim 12.   (CURRENTLY AMENDED)   The image-rendering system of claim 11 27, wherein the image-information associator distinguishes between: text pixels, edge pixels,

monochrome pixels, and color pixels when associating the image-information bits with a pixel.

Claim 13.   (CURRENTLY AMENDED)   The image-rendering system of claim ~~11~~ 27,

wherein each pixel has an associated data set that has a most significant bit and a least significant

bit, and wherein the image-information bits are further associated with the most significant bit of a

data set associated with a pixel.

Claim 14.   (CURRENTLY AMENDED)   The image-rendering system of claim ~~11~~ 27,

wherein each pixel has an associated data set that has a most significant bit and a least significant

bit, and wherein the image-information bits are further associated with the least significant bit of a

data set associated with a pixel.

Claim 15.   (CURRENTLY AMENDED)   The image-rendering system of claim ~~11~~ 27,

wherein the image rendering system is part of a computer.

Claim 16.   (CURRENTLY AMENDED)   The image-rendering system of claim ~~11~~ 27,

wherein the image rendering system is part of a printer.

Claim 17.   (CURRENTLY AMENDED)   The image-rendering system of claim ~~11~~ 27,

wherein the image rendering system is part of a printer controller.

Claims 18 -20 (Canceled)

Claim 21. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 1, wherein when the first bit of the image-information data bits indicates color processing, the second bit of the image-information data bits indicates one of color image halftone processing and text/edge halftone processing.

Claim 22. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 1, wherein when the first bit of the image-information data bits indicates monochrome processing, the second bit of the image-information data bits indicates one of monochrome halftone processing and white.

Claim 23. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 6, wherein when the first bit of the image-information bits indicates color processing, the second bit of the image-information bits indicates one of color image halftone processing and text/edge halftone processing.

Claim 24. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 6, wherein when the first bit of the image-information bits indicates monochrome processing, the second bit of the image-information bits indicates one of monochrome halftone processing and white.

Claim 25. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The image-rendering system of claim ~~11~~ 27,

wherein when the first bit of the image-information bits indicates color processing, the second bit of the image-information bits indicates one of color image halftone processing and text/edge halftone processing.

Claim 26. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The image-rendering system of claim 11 27, wherein when the first bit of the image-information bits indicates monochrome processing, the second bit of the image-information bits indicates one of monochrome halftone processing and white.

Claim 27. (NEW) An image rendering system for instructing a printer in providing an image having a plurality of pixels, the image data for each pixel being a pixel data set having a predetermined number of data bits, the source image data for the image including a plurality of pixel data sets, the image rendering system comprising

a data storage device for temporarily storing the pixel data sets of the image,

associating software operatively coupled to the data storage device for associating one or more image information bits with each pixel data set in the data storage device, and

print processing structure including an information coupling and assessment section, and a pixel rendering section, said information coupling and assessment section being responsive to the pixel data sets and the image information bits associated with each pixel data set for rendering the pixels of the image using an image rendering process which is selected by said information coupling and assessment section in relation to the image information associated with

each pixel data set, and wherein the image information bits includes a first bit assessment block,

and two second bit assessment blocks, with the first bit assessment block assessing a first image

information bit, and the two second bit assessment blocks assessing a second image information

bit.